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MEMORANDUM / NOTE DE SERVICE

TO / À

Mrs. Janice Hopkins
Executive Director
Health Protection Branch

FROM / DE

Director General
Environmental Health Directorate

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ

OUR FILE/NOTRE RÉFÉRENCE

YOUR FILE/VOTRE RÉFÉRENCE

DATE
February 3, 1987

SUBJECT / OBJET

Environmental Hypersensitivity Working Group

I think that a working party composed of representatives from each Directorate would be an appropriate means of working out a Branch and/or Departmental policy on this issue.

I am in agreement that L.C.D.C. is the appropriate choice for chairmanship of the Branch working party on environmental sensitivity issues, since in some cases at least, immunological responses may be involved, an area in which L.C.D.C. has expertise. Moreover, one of the few positive recommendations of the Zimmerman Advisory Panel was epidemiological research into causes of the condition and efficacy of treatment techniques.

Since Mrs. Grace Wood has handled much of this Directorate's correspondence on this issue and is familiar with the Ontario reports, she will be this Directorate's nominee to the Working Group.

The Health Services and Promotion Branch may be involved with this issue as it relates to its extramural research funding programme, and in addition is responsible for "lifestyle" programmes on topics such as tobacco smoke abatement; programmes in both areas were strongly recommended by the Ontario reports. That Branch should therefore be represented on the Working Group in order to ensure uniformity of approach at the Departmental level.

For the same reason, Medical Services Branch should be present. They have been asked to advise Treasury Board on sick leave and GSMIP payments for federal civil servants, as well as to advise on building accommodations for civil servants who are affected by poor air quality in government offices.

E. Somers

cc Dr. Liston